

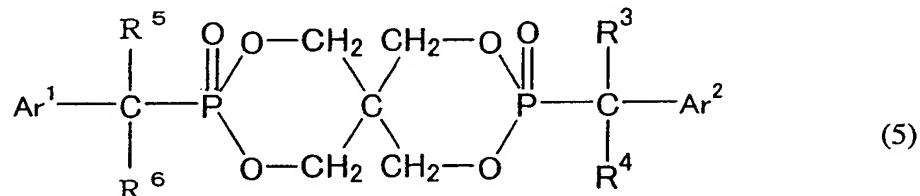
**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure.**

**Please add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:**

**ABSTRACT**

A process for producing a pentaerythritol diphosphonate represented by formula (5) characterized by (A) reacting phosphorus trichloride with pentaerythritol in the presence of an inert solvent to obtain pentaerythritol dichlorophosphite (reaction (a)), (B) reacting the pentaerythritol dichlorophosphite with an aralkyl alcohol to obtain a pentaerythritol diphosphite (reaction (b)), and (C) heat-treating the pentaerythritol diphosphite in the presence of a halogenated compound at a temperature of from 80 to 300°C (reaction (c)):



wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same as or different from each other, each represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup>, which may be the same as or different from each other, each represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.